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From: McGrath, Shaun
Sent: Mon 12/21/2015 2:29:14 AM
Subject: Weekend Report from R8

Weekend Report from R8

Pavillion -- On Friday, Wyoming released its report on Pavillion, finding that fracking was unlikely the cause of the area's groundwater contamination, but also raising questions about what role natural gas operations might have played in polluting the water (e.g., due to well bore integrity and/or pits). The State has opened up a 90-day public comment period and will hold a public hearing in late January before finalizing the report. Additionally, I discussed with Todd Parfitt on Thursday the possibility of a meeting between the State and EPA following the public hearing, in order for us to have questions clarified before we formally submit our comments.

Todd was very open to such a meeting. My regional team will now coordinate review of the report with the HQ team, including the drafting of our public comments, as they have done on the prior two Wyoming Pavillion reports.

http://trib.com/business/energy/state-investigation-finds-little-evidence-fracking-contributed-to-pavillion-pollution/article_b68cb289-61c0-583a-8c7f-9b4849313bc8.html

Utah Regional Haze -- On Thursday, we finalized the proposed Utah Regional Haze plan, proposing in the alternative to approve the SIP or partially FIP to require SCR. The reaction to the announced proposal has been fairly balanced thus far. Although there have been criticisms from both sides, I also think there is recognition that we need more information (and public comment) to inform a final decision on which approach is best.

<http://m.deseretnews.com/article/865643914/EPA-proposes-two-options-to-address-Utahs-regional-haze.html?pg=all?ref=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2F>

Consultation with Ute Tribe -- On Thursday we held a consultation with the Ute Tribe regarding 1) the development of a reservation-specific rule (FIP) to address air emissions from the oil and gas development; and 2) the proposed settlement agreement regarding Deseret. The conversation on both was positive. We provided information and answered questions on our proposed approach on the FIP, and agreed to schedule an additional consultation in early January. On Deseret, the Tribe agreed that we should move forward with the permit in order to get it finalized in time that Deseret can make upgrades on the Bonanza power plant during its planned maintenance in the spring. We will now move forward with the public comment on the proposed permit beginning Dec. 22.

Sent from my iPad